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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
William Wiles :
Application No. 10/765,449 : DECISION ON
Filed: January 27, 2004 : PETITION
Atty Docket No. WILES-005 :

This is a decision on the PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT ABANDONED UNAVOIDABLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(a) filed April 1, 2005.

The petition under § 1.137(a) is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(a)," or "Renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b)," as appropriate. Extensions of time are permitted under § 1.136(a).

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to file a timely and proper reply to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application mailed June 15, 2004. This Notice set a two month time limit for reply, with extensions of time obtainable under 37 CFR §1.136(a). No reply having been received and no extensions obtained, the above-identified application became abandoned effective August 16, 2004. A courtesy Notice of Abandonment was mailed on March 10, 2005.

Petitioner maintains that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date of the reply until the filing of a grantable petition was unavoidable. Specifically,

petitioner maintains that the filing receipt and the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application were not received.

Consideration under § 1.137(a)

A grantable petition under § 1.137(a) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed;
- (2) the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(1);
- (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable; and
- (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in § 1.20(d)) required pursuant to § 1.137(d).

As to requirement (1), absent a persuasive showing of non-receipt, any petition under § 1.137 to be grantable must include the required fees in the amount in effect on the date of filing of the petition.

As to requirement (2), the instant petition does not satisfy the requirement.

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

The word 'unavoidable' ... is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912) (quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also

Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 U.S.P.Q. 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 U.S.P.Q. 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith, 671 F.2d at 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. at 982. Nonetheless, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines, 673 F. Supp. at 316-17, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1131-32.

A review of the application file reveals no irregularities in the mailing of the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application as mailed on June 15, 2004. Thus, there is a strong presumption that the correspondence was properly mailed to the applicant at the correspondence address of record. In the absence of demonstrated irregularities in mailing of this Notice, petitioner must submit evidence to overcome this presumption. The showing required to establish non-receipt of an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received. In addition, a copy of the docket record where the non-received Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. Petitioner has not supported his claims of non-receipt with such evidence.

Petitioner is further reminded that the showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the Office action may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the Office action was lost in the mail (e.g., if the practitioner has a history of not receiving Office actions).

Having not made an adequate showing of non-receipt of the Office action or other showing of unavoidable delay, the petition cannot be granted under § 1.137(a).

Consideration under § 1.137(b)

While the showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay was unavoidable,

petitioner is not precluded from seeking revival based on unintentional delay. A grantable petition under §1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in §1.20(d)) required pursuant to § 1.137(d).

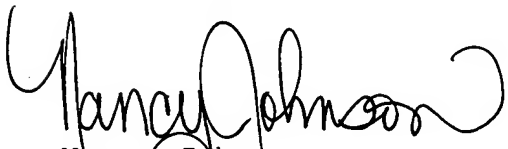
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By fax: (703) 872-9306
 ATTN: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Johnson", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions